

Omnibus Spending Bill Passes House

December 10, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC — Today, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) voted to pass six of the seven remaining spending measures in an omnibus package that passed the House by a vote of 221 - 202. The bill funds the nation's education, transportation and Veterans affairs agencies-- among others-- and contains a number of local projects that Congressman Sestak personally submitted and supported. The legislation now moves to the Senate.

"I am proud to vote for this measure that continues to focus our investments on retooling our economy, investing in education, and protecting those most vulnerable in our society," said Congressman Sestak. "I am personally proud of the steps being taken to benefit our Veterans, particularly the advanced appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs which allows for better planning and predictability for the VA."

This year Congressman Sestak has published an appropriations guide that serves as a primer on the request process. This complements the one-of-a-kind yearly grant and resource manual that the Congressman has published since 2008. Both can be found on his website at www.sestak.house.gov, along with blank forms to request a fiscal year 2011 project.

"When I took office, there was a line of people waiting to request appropriation funding," said Congressman Sestak. "When I started asking around, I quickly discovered that, while there

were a select few who knew how this process worked, most did not. Through more than a dozen events and meeting separately with the individual municipalities in my District, I set about opening the process to everyone. Although I prefer grants instead of appropriations, so long as the current system exists, I have a responsibility to my constituents to ensure they know about and have access to the process."

LOCAL PROJECTS SPONSORED BY CONGRESSMAN SESTAK INCLUDED IN OMNIBUS BILL:

\$100,000 for a Cabrini College domestic violence program that will partner with schools and organizations in Delaware and Montgomery Counties,

\$100,000 for Devereux's Malvern facility, which offers the non-profit's behavior support programs for the region's at-risk youth;

\$200,000 for needed technology upgrades for the Lower Providence Township Police Department;

\$35,000 for Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Delaware Valley to defray the costs of providing individual financial counseling sessions to residents whose counseling sessions are not covered by other funding sources;

\$65,000 for the Philadelphia Development Partnership to provide entrepreneurial training, on-going advisory services and financial assistance to socially and economically disadvantaged individuals living or owning businesses -- focusing specifically on women;

\$150,000 for West Chester University's Entrepreneurial Leadership Center, which will provide students the skills they need to succeed in pursuing start-up small businesses;

\$500,000 for Upper Darby Police Department to provide much needed safety and functionality improvements to its headquarters building;

\$150,000 for Pathways PA to help fund two full-time case manager/coaches to provide services to pregnant and parenting teens, including teens coming out of foster care;

\$100,000 for Cheyney University's Keystone Honors Academy, which has a proven record of success, and graduates students at a higher rate than the national average for all American Colleges and Universities (and at twice the rate for other Historically Black Colleges and Universities);

\$200,000 for Neumann College's Pharmacy Education Initiative, which helps re-educate adults into a high-demand field;

\$700,000 for continued funding of the US Route 422 Schuylkill River Crossing Complex;

\$300,000 for Valley Forge Military Academy and College to renovate Van Steuben Hall to better accommodate females into the Valley Forge Corps of Cadets;

\$1,266,200 for Upper Providence Township, Montgomery County for westbound off-ramp improvements off of US Route 422 at the Oaks Interchange to better accommodate traffic to the new Greater Philadelphia Expo Center.

**PROJECTS FUNDED IN SPENDING BILLS HAVING ALREADY PASSED CONGRESS
EARLIER THIS YEAR:**

\$300,000 for West Chester University to transform its campus heating and cooling systems from traditional power sources to geothermal. This change will significantly decrease the institution's carbon footprint and serve as a national model for green campus efforts. The institution is in the process of designing and implementing this project by building well fields and installing connecting piping to provide the geothermal heating/cooling source for campus buildings.

\$200,000 for Lower Providence Township to help advance a project done in conjunction with PECO Energy to explore the possibility of constructing a "brightfield," or solar farm, at the former Moyer's Landfill site. Preliminary estimates indicate that thousands of panels could be installed on this former landfill and, subsequently, this location could generate enough solar energy to power several hundred homes. The reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide would be comparable to taking hundreds of vehicles off the road each year. A new green energy source would limit the need for fossil fuels, thus reducing pollution, resulting in a cleaner environment. If completed, plans are to use the site also as an educational opportunity for local schools.

\$350,000 for continued funding for rehabilitating the Welcome Center at Valley Forge National Historical Park.

\$250,000 for Thornbury Township to upgrade the wastewater treatment facility on Cheyney University's campus.

\$300,000 for the Aquaculture Research and Education Center at Cheyney University.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.